1.60 NET

TWO CHINESE POEMS

WITH 8th CENTURY TEXTS

for

VOICE *and* PIANO

By

EMERSON WHITHORNE

Op. 18

I

THE KING OF LIANG

II

THE FEAST

COMPOSERS' MUSIC CORPORATION
14 East 48th Street, New York

THE KING OF LIANG

I

There was a King of Liang—a king of wondrous might—
Who kept an open palace, where music charmed the night.

II

Since he was Lord of Liang a thousand years have flown,
And of the towers he builded yon ruin stands alone.

III

There reigns a heavy silence; gaunt weeds through windows pry,
And down the streets of Liang old echoes, wailing, die.

—KAO-SHIH (*Circa* A. D. 700)

Kao-Shih was one of the most fascinating of all the T'ang poets. His life was one long series of romantic adventure. At first a poor youth battling with adversity; then a lover of an actress, whom he followed through the provinces, playwriting for the strolling troupe to which she was attached; then next, secretary to a high personage on a mission to Thibet; then soldier, and finally poet of renown, acquiring with his latter years the fortune and honours denied him in his youth.

Translation and biographical sketch by L. Cranmer-Byng, from *A Lute Of Jade*. Reprinted by permission of Messrs. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Authentic Chinese melodies have been employed in these songs.

—E. W.

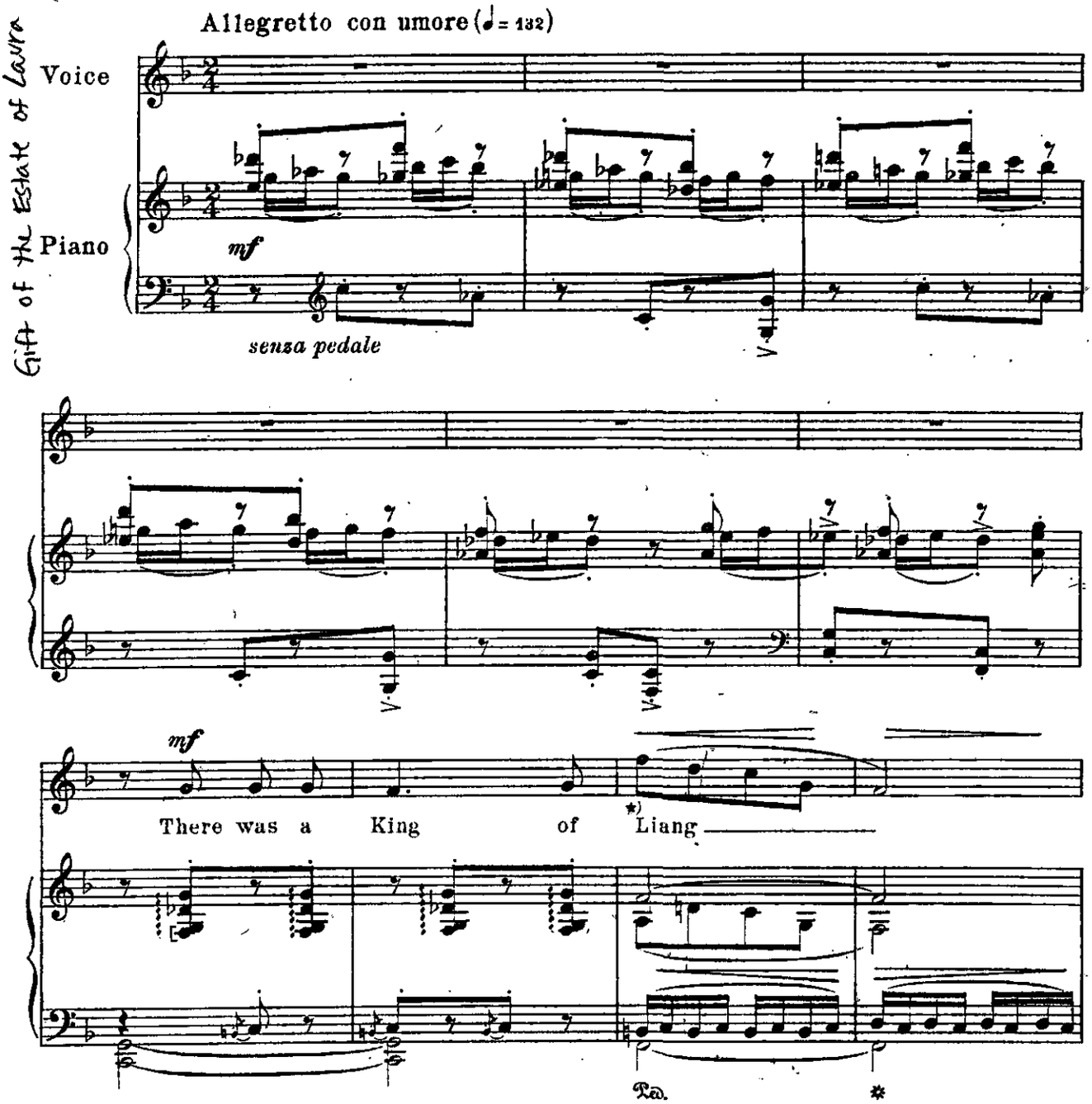
Gift of the Estate of Laura La Forge Webb, 1993.

Dedicated to
Robert Winthrop Chanler

The King of Liang

Kao-shih
Circa A.D. 700

Emerson Whithorne
Op. 18, No.1



*) *Liang: the pronunciation should be nearer one syllable than two.*

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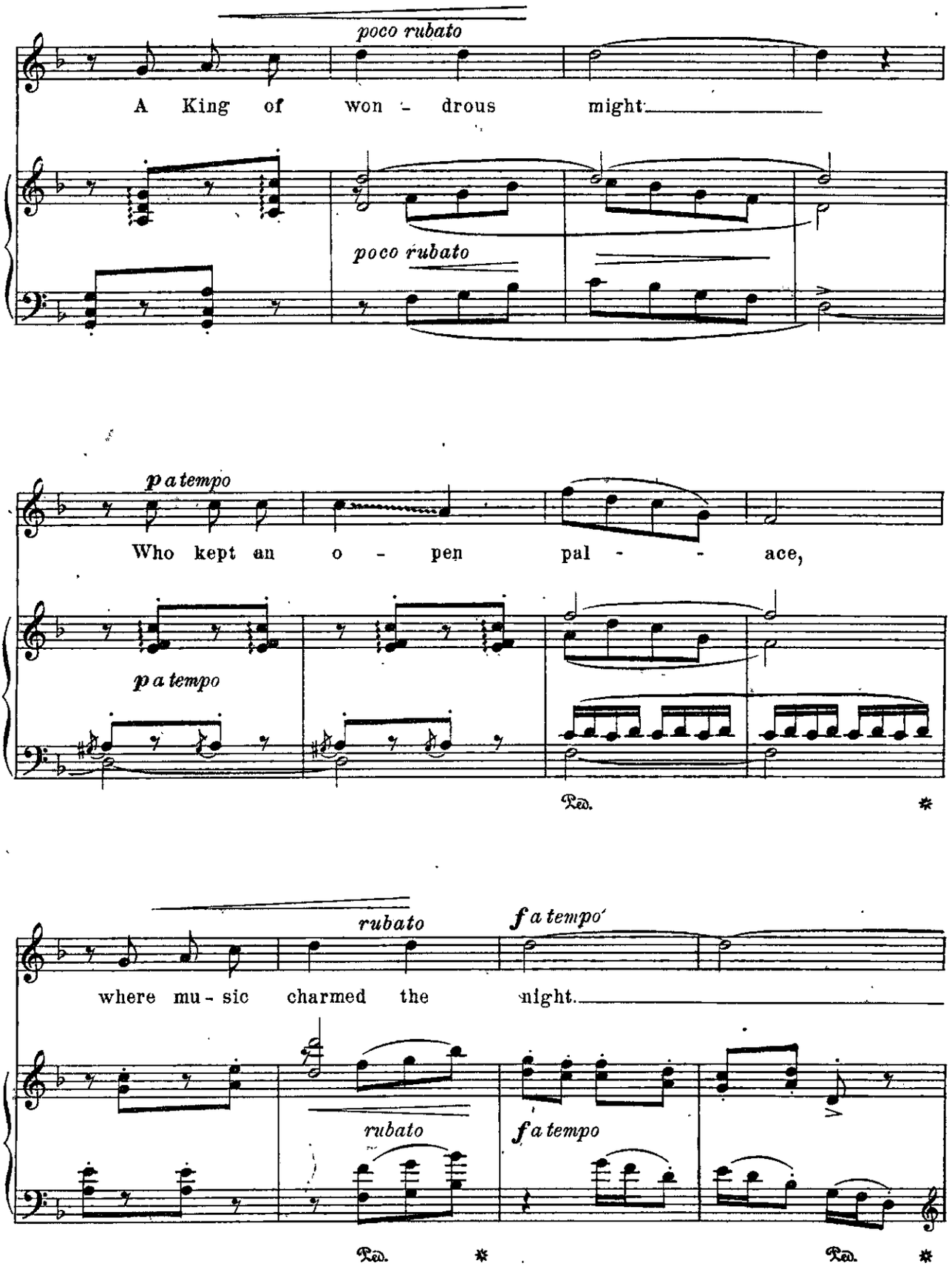
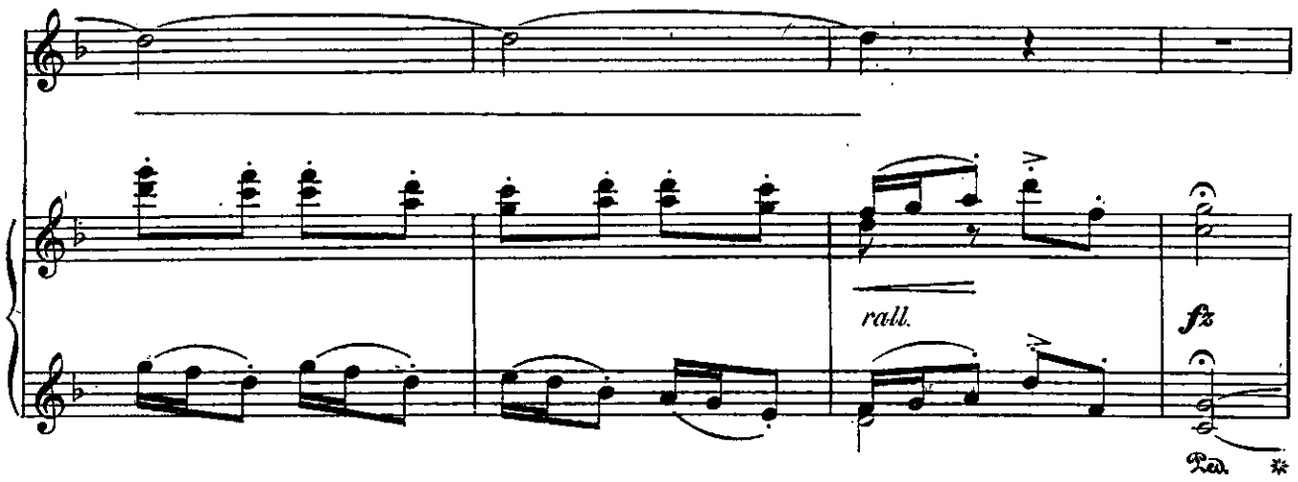
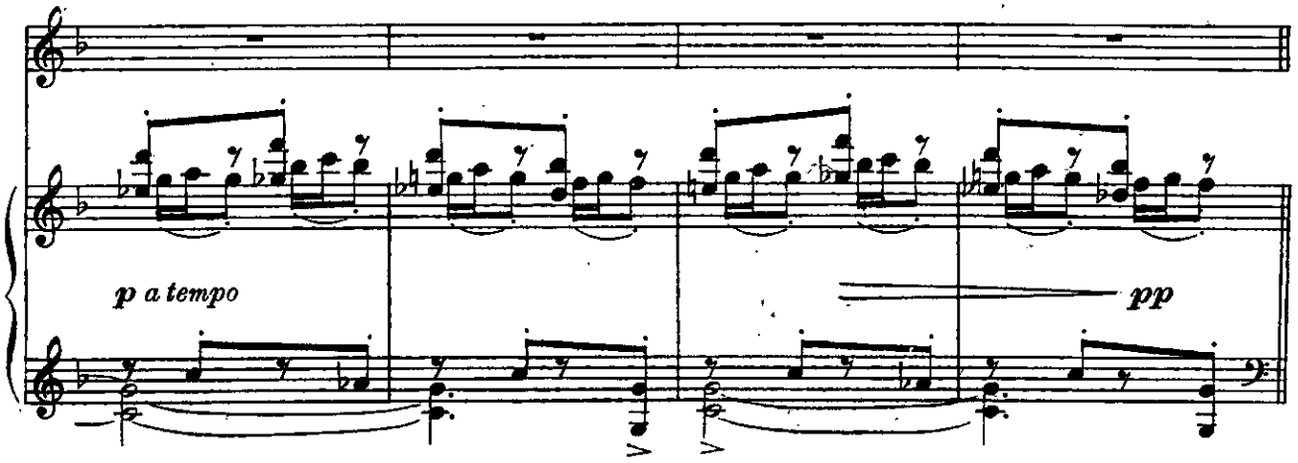
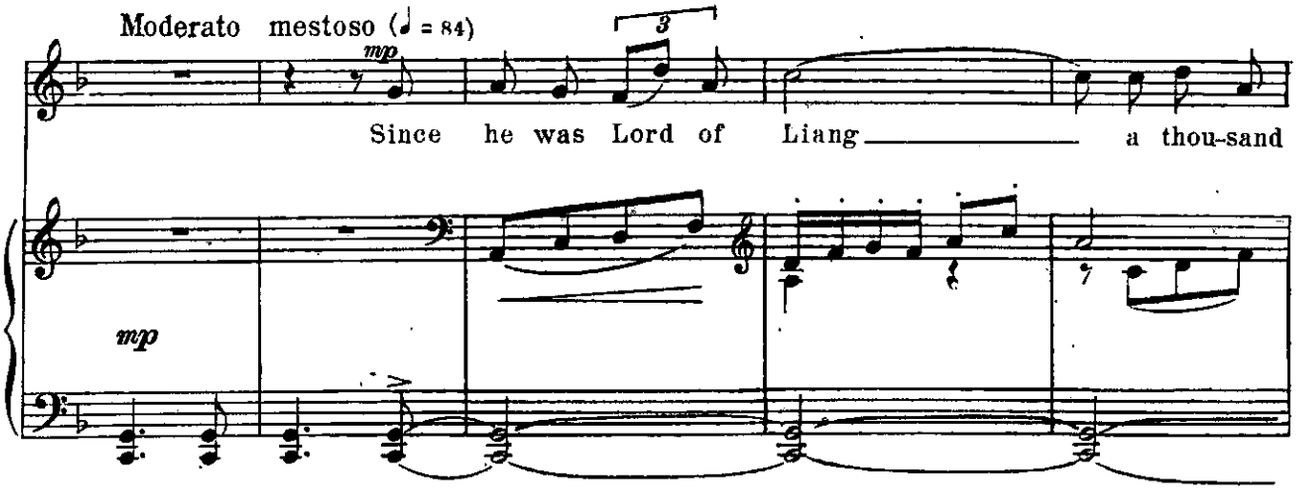
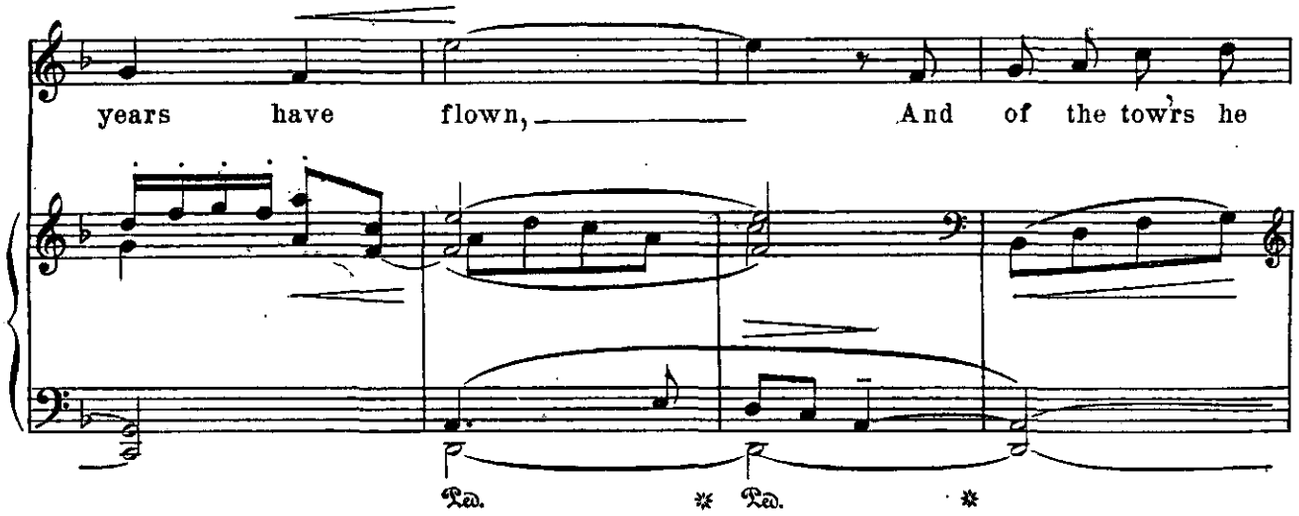
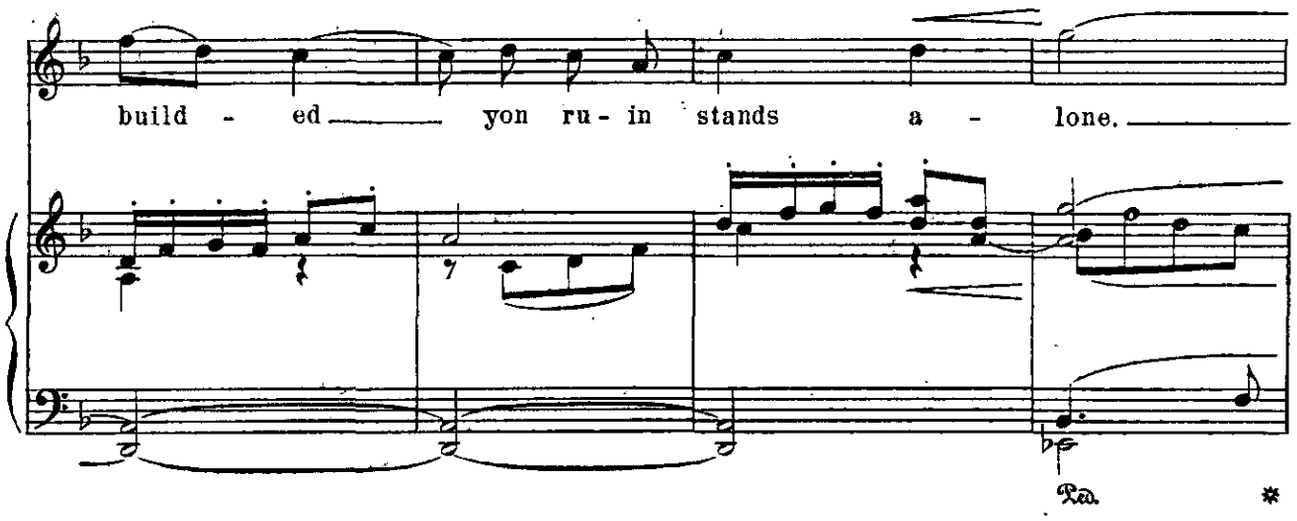

poco rubato
A King of won - drous might
poco rubato
p a tempo
Who kept an o - pen pal - - ace,
p a tempo
Ped.
*
rubato
f a tempo
where mu - sic charmed the night.
rubato
f a tempo
Ped.
*
Ped.
*

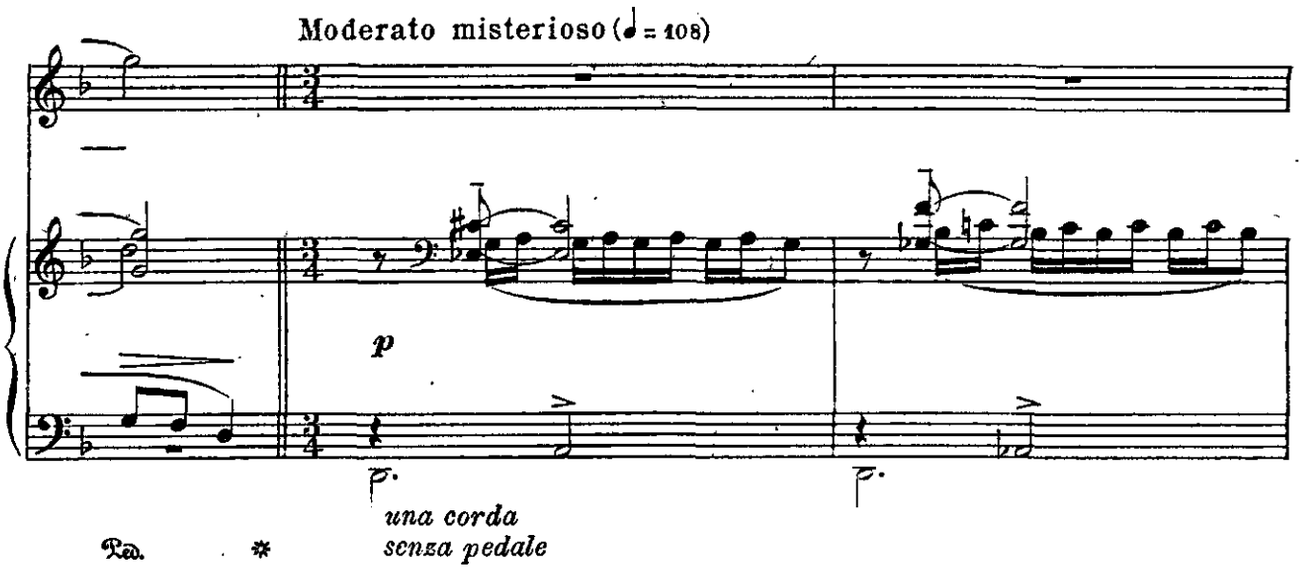

rall.
fz
Ped.

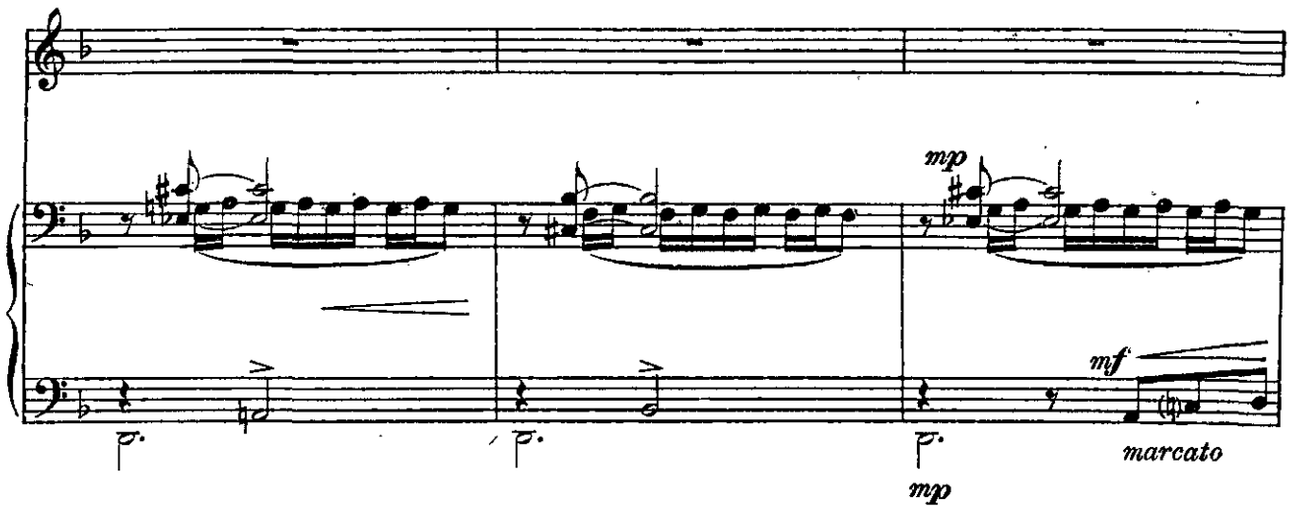

p a tempo
pp

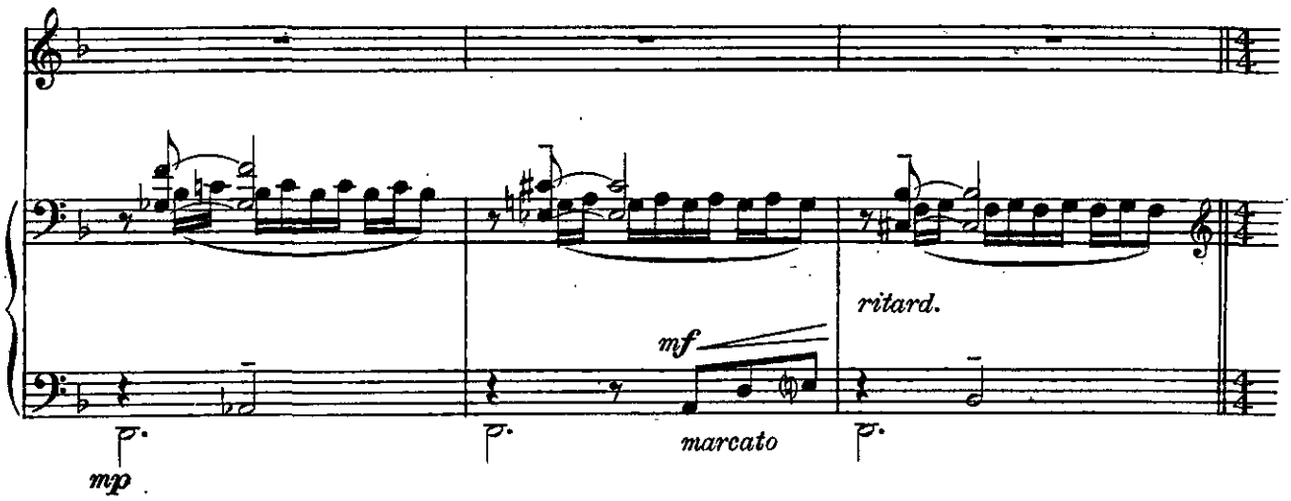

Moderato mestoso (♩ = 84)
mp
3
Since he was Lord of Liang a thou-sand
mp

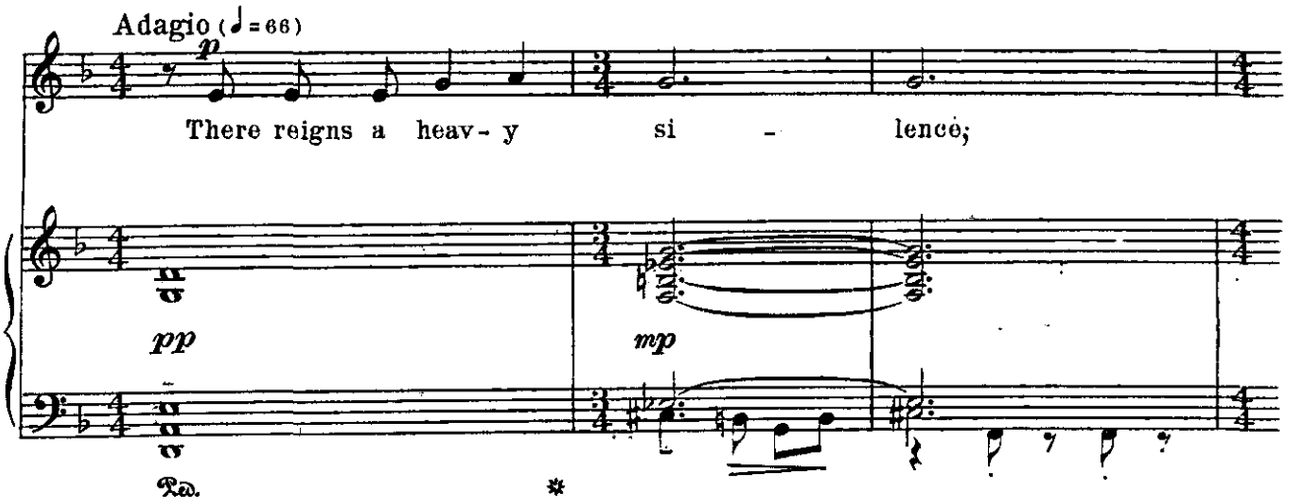

years have flown, And of the towrs he
Ped. * Ped. *

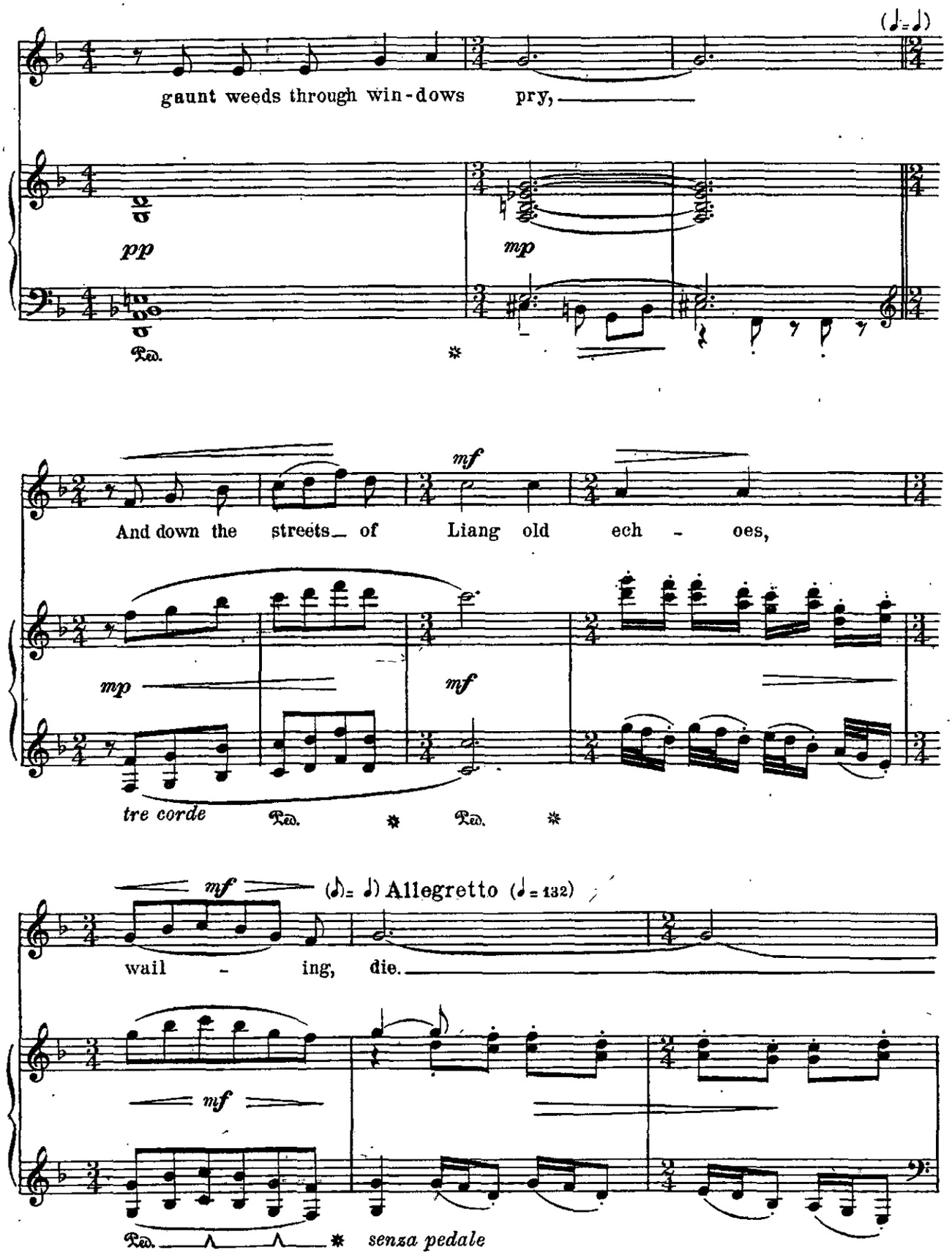

build - ed yon ru - in stands a - lone.
Ped. *

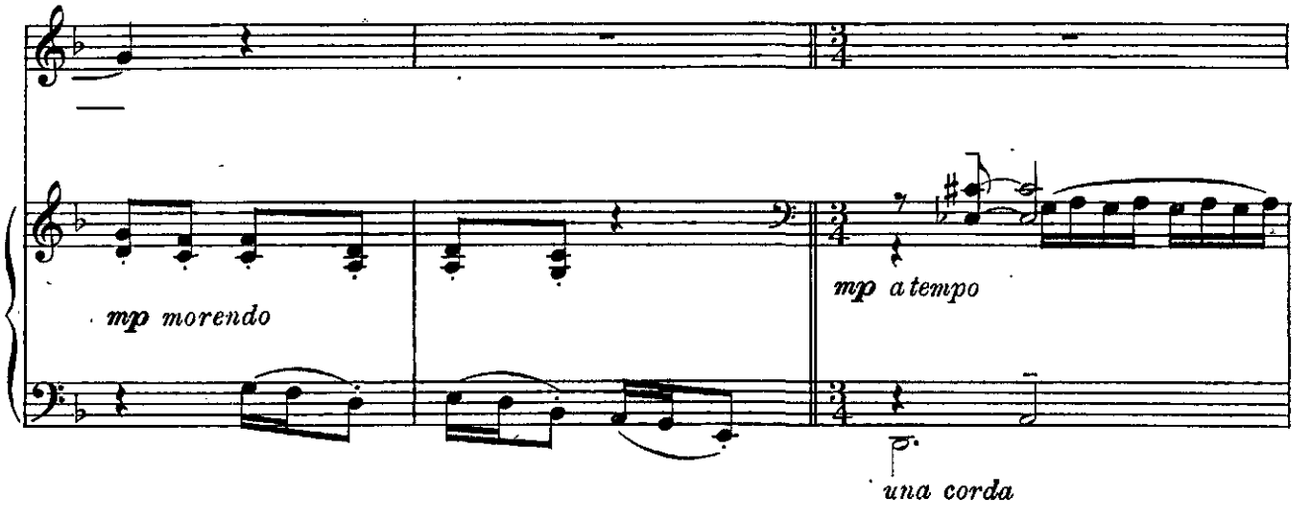

Moderato misterioso (♩ = 108)
p
una corda
senza pedale
Ped. *

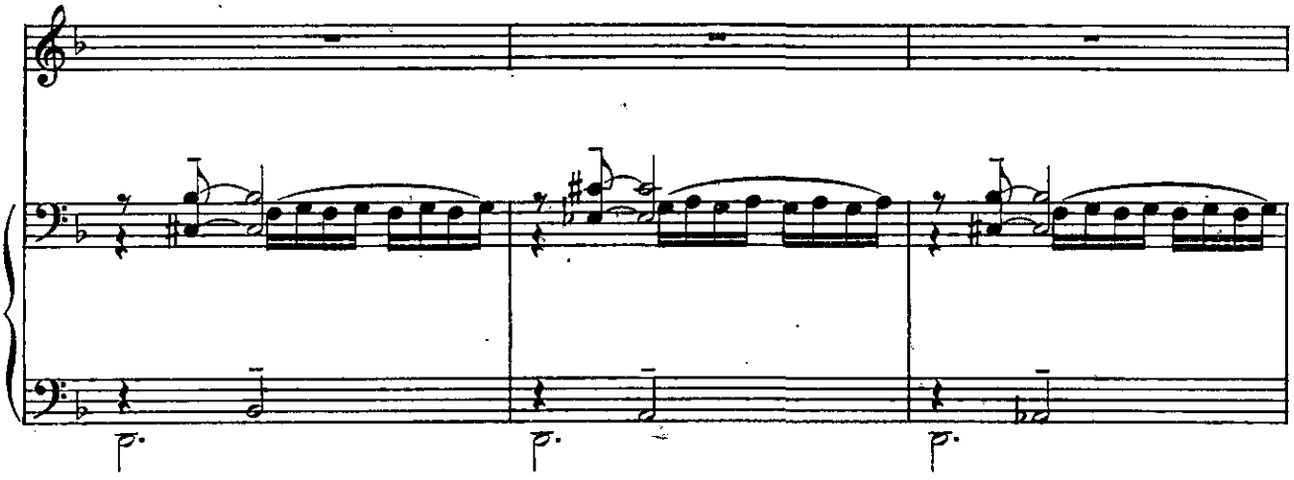

mp
mf
marcato
mp

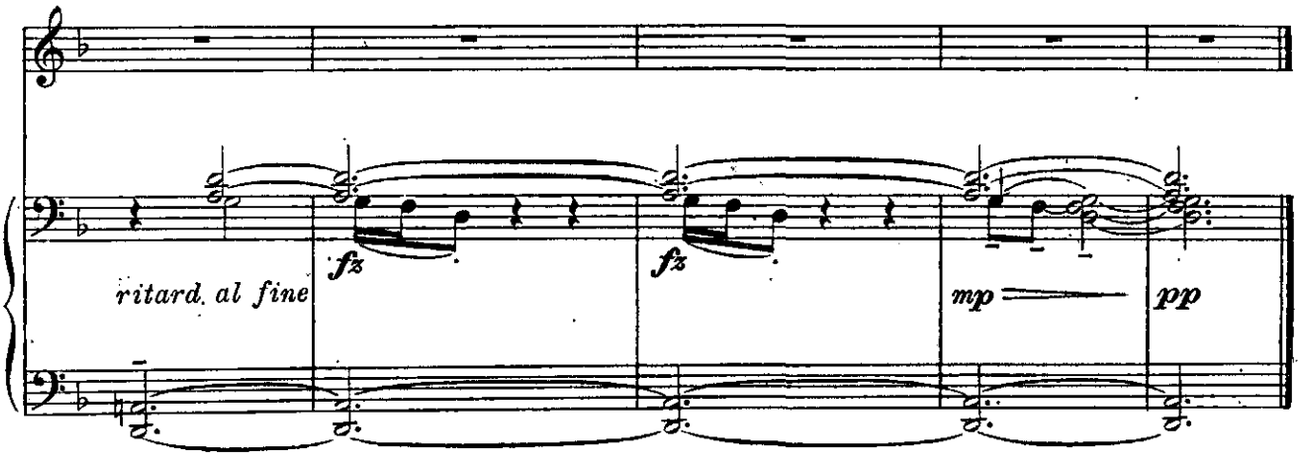

ritard.
mf
marcato
mp


Adagio (♩= 66)
p
There reigns a heav- y si - lence;
pp
mp
Ped.
*


(♩.= ♩)
gaunt weeds through win-dows pry,
pp
mp
Ped.
mf
And down the streets of Liang old ech - oes,
mp
mf
tre corde
Ped.
Ped.
mf
(♪.= ♩) Allegretto (♩= 132)
wail - ing, die.
mf
Ped.
senza pedale







London, March, 1914

THE FEAST

I

From silver lamps a thin blue smoke is streaming,
And golden vases 'mid the feast are gleaming;
Now sound the lutes in unison,
Within the gates our lives are one.
We'll think not of the parting ways
As long as dawn delays.

II

When in tall trees the dying moonbeams quiver:
When floods of fire efface the Silver River,
Then comes the hour when I must seek
Lo-yang, beyond the furthest peak.
But the warm twilight round us twain
Will never rise again.

—CH'ÊN TZU-ANG (A. D. 656-698)

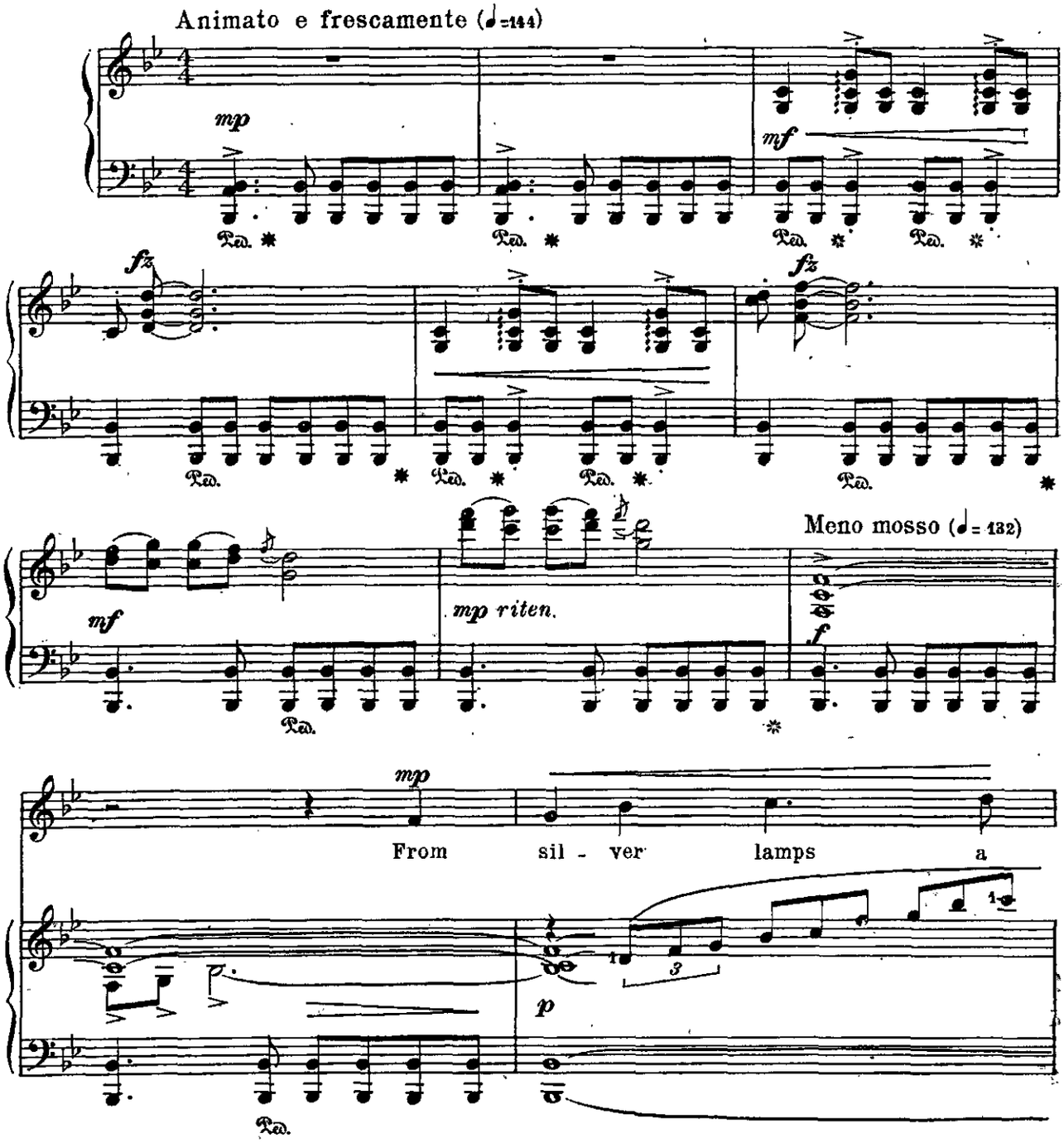
Ch'ên Tzu-ang was famous for writing that kind of impromptu descriptive verse which the Chinese call "ying." In temperament he was less Chinese than most of his contemporaries. His passionate disposition finally brought him into trouble with the magistrate of his district, who cast him into prison, where he died at the age of forty-two.

Translation and biographical sketch by L. Cranmer-Byng, from *A Lute of Jade*. Reprinted by permission of Messrs. E. P. Dutton & Co.

The Feast

Ch'ên Tzŭ-ang
A.D. 656-698

Emerson Whithorne
Op. 18, No. 2



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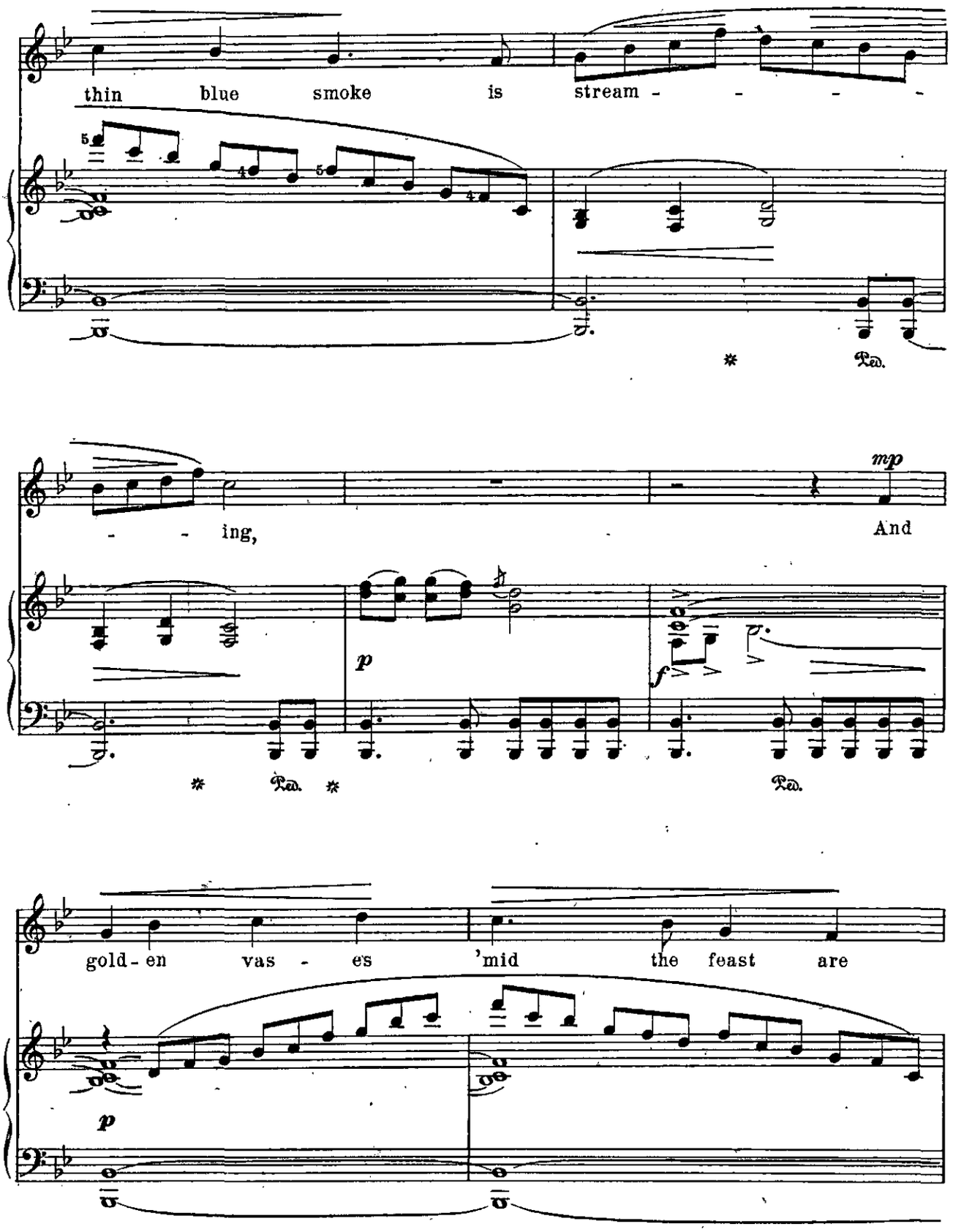
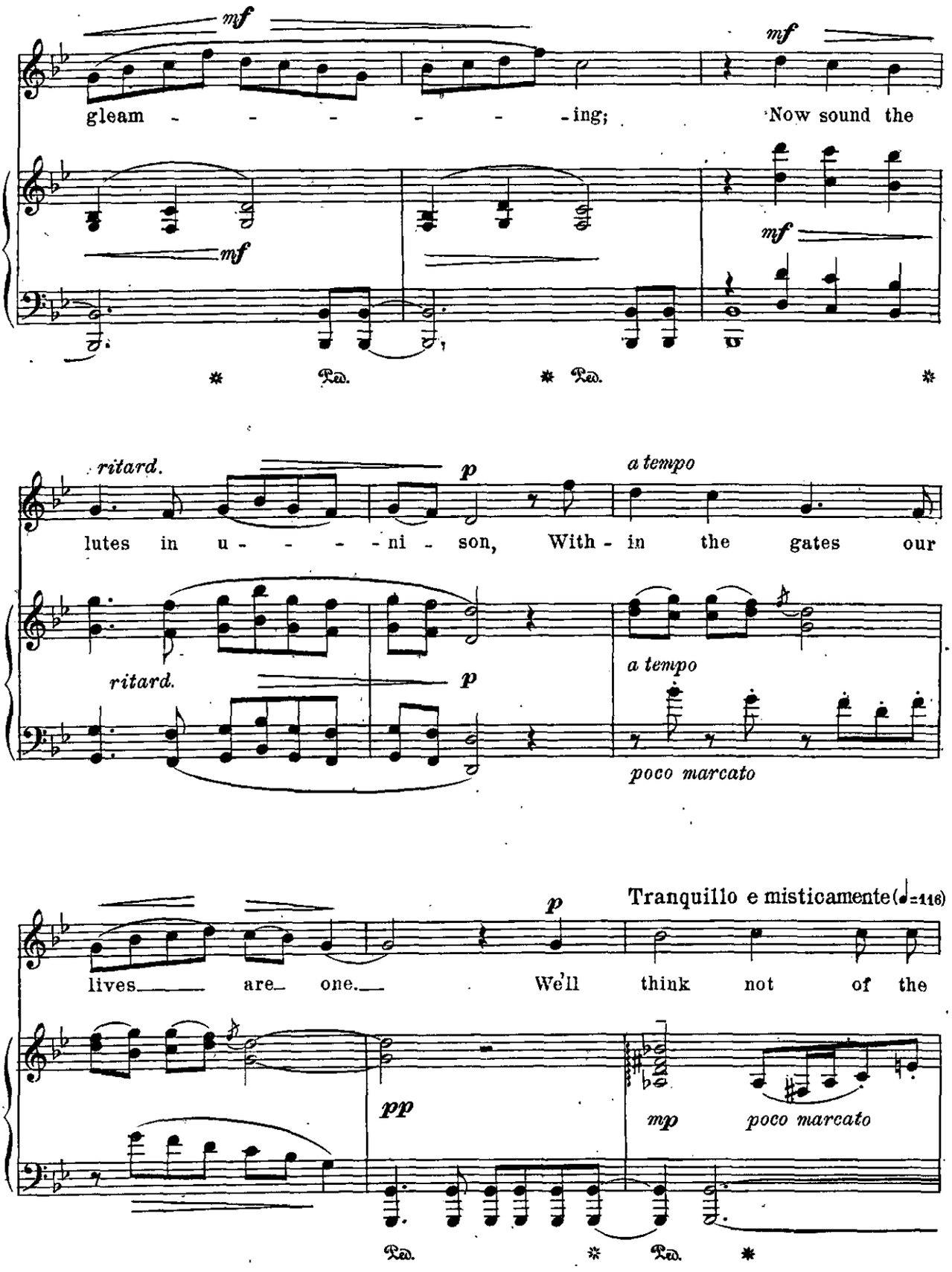
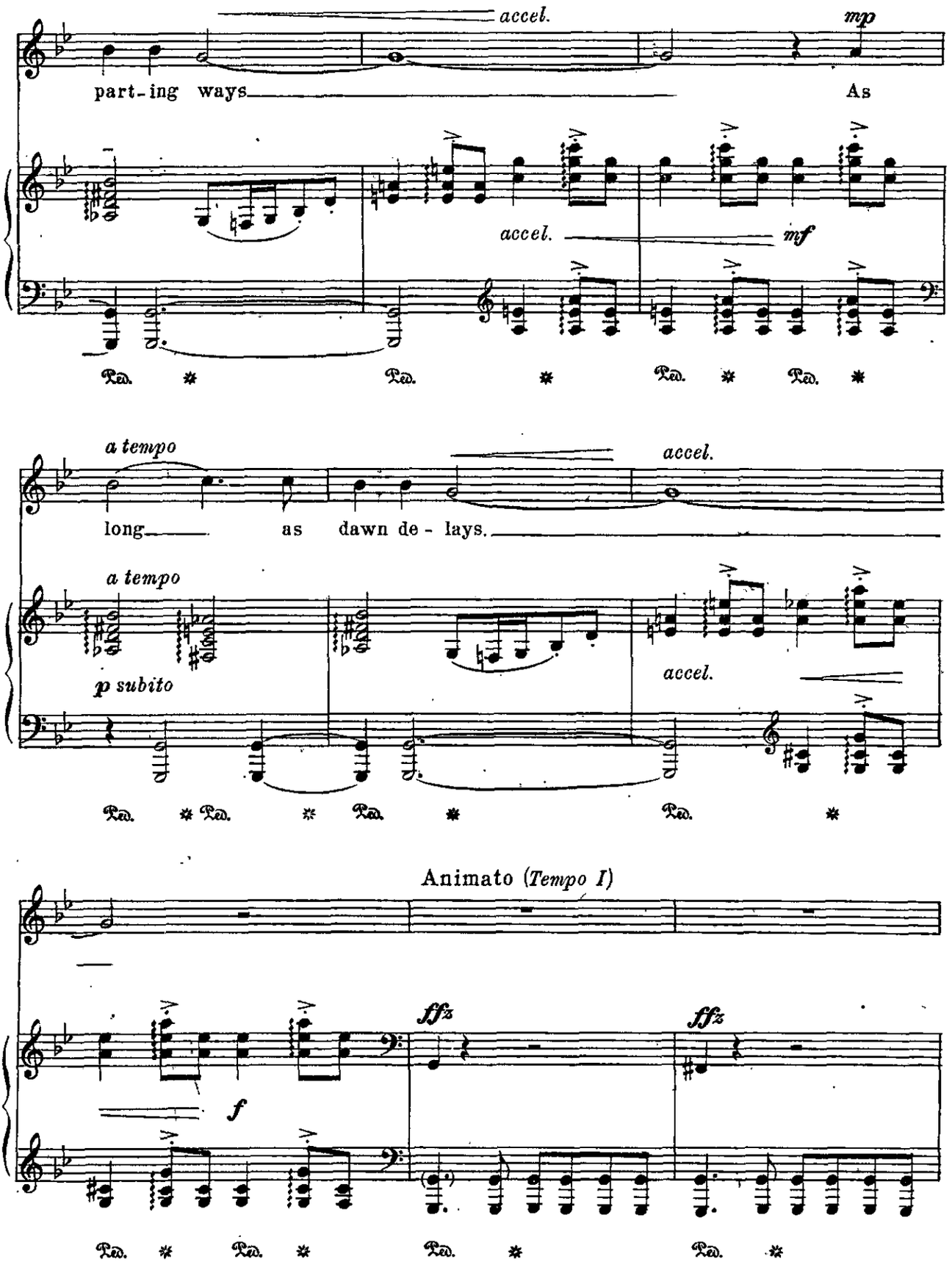
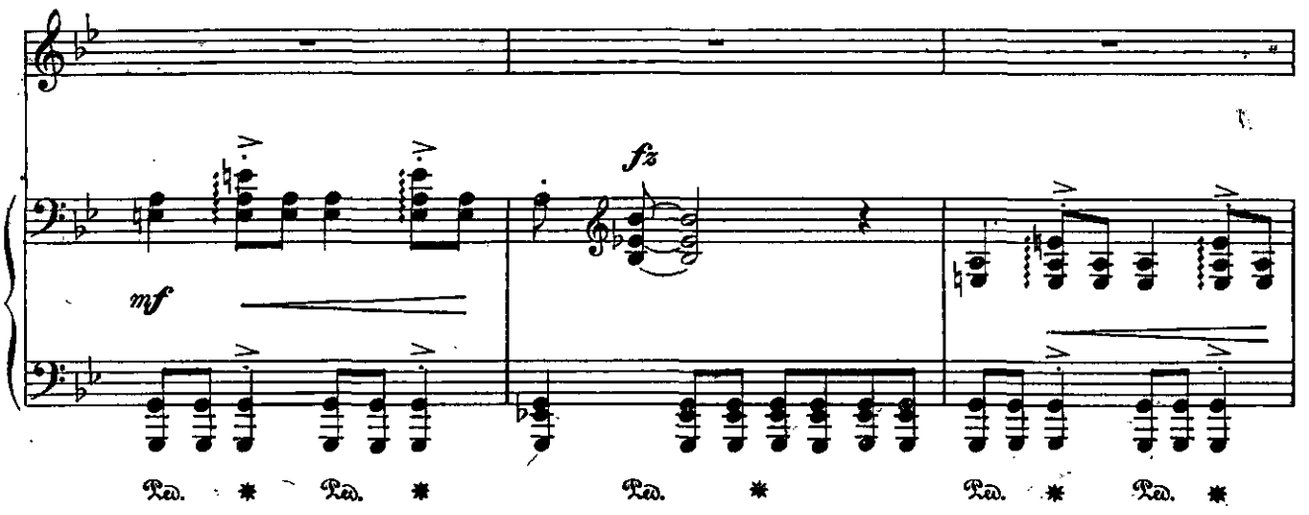
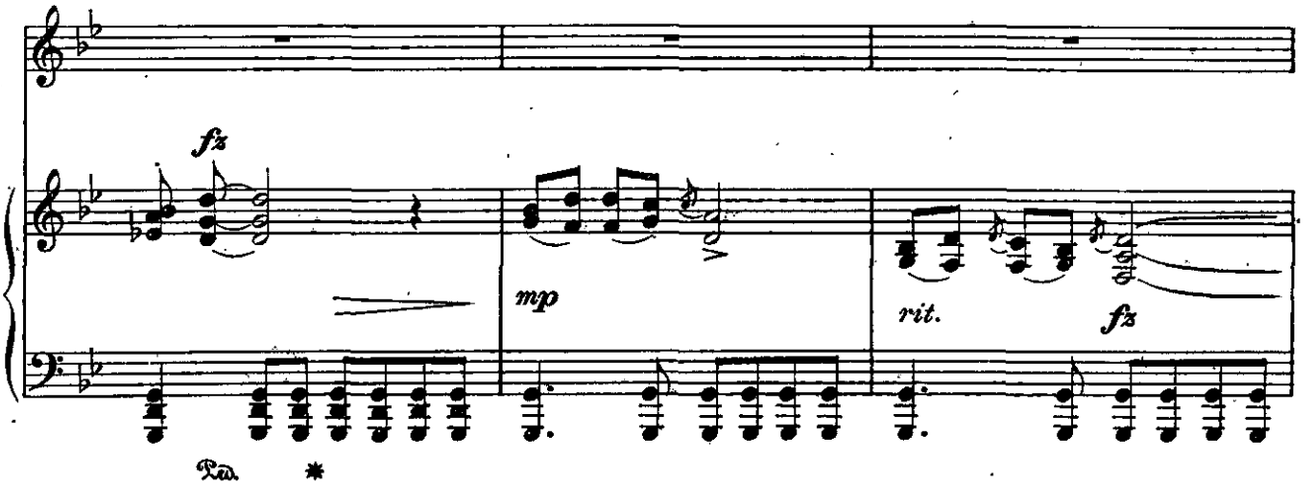

thin blue smoke is stream - - - -
- - ing,
And
gold - en vas - es 'mid the feast are
mp
p
f
Ped.

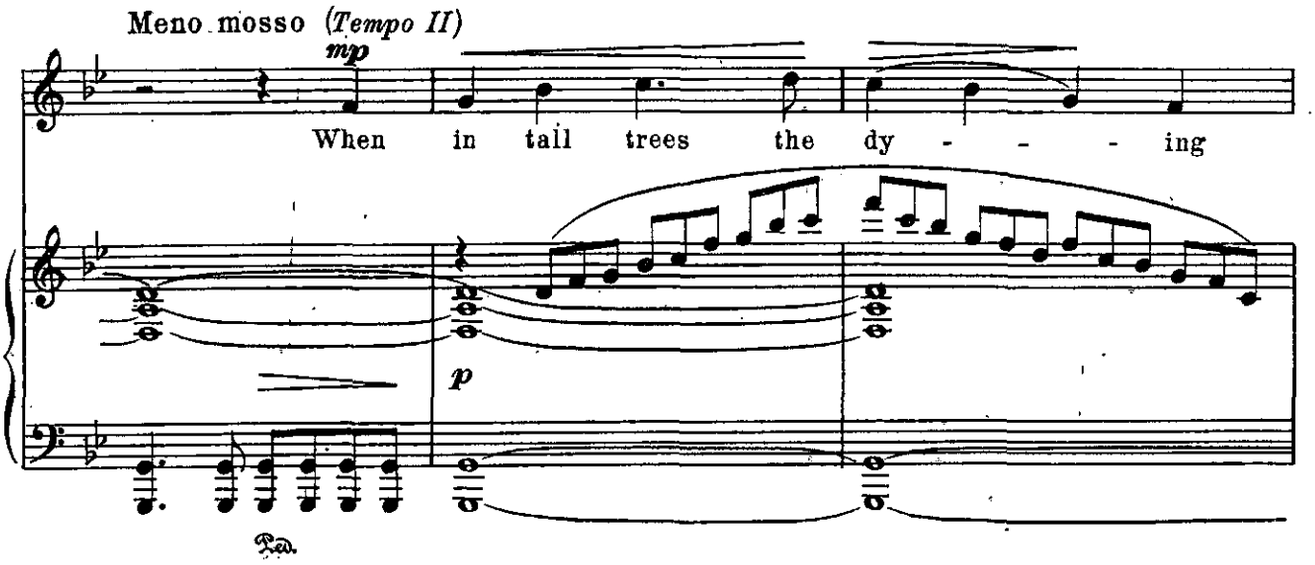

mf
gleam - - - - - - - ing;
mf
Now sound the
mf
mf
Ped.
Ped.
ritard.
p
a tempo
lutes in u - - - - ni - son,
With - in the gates our
ritard.
p
a tempo
poco marcato
p
Tranquillo e misticamente (♩=116)
lives are one.
We'll think not of the
pp
mp
poco marcato
Ped.
Ped.

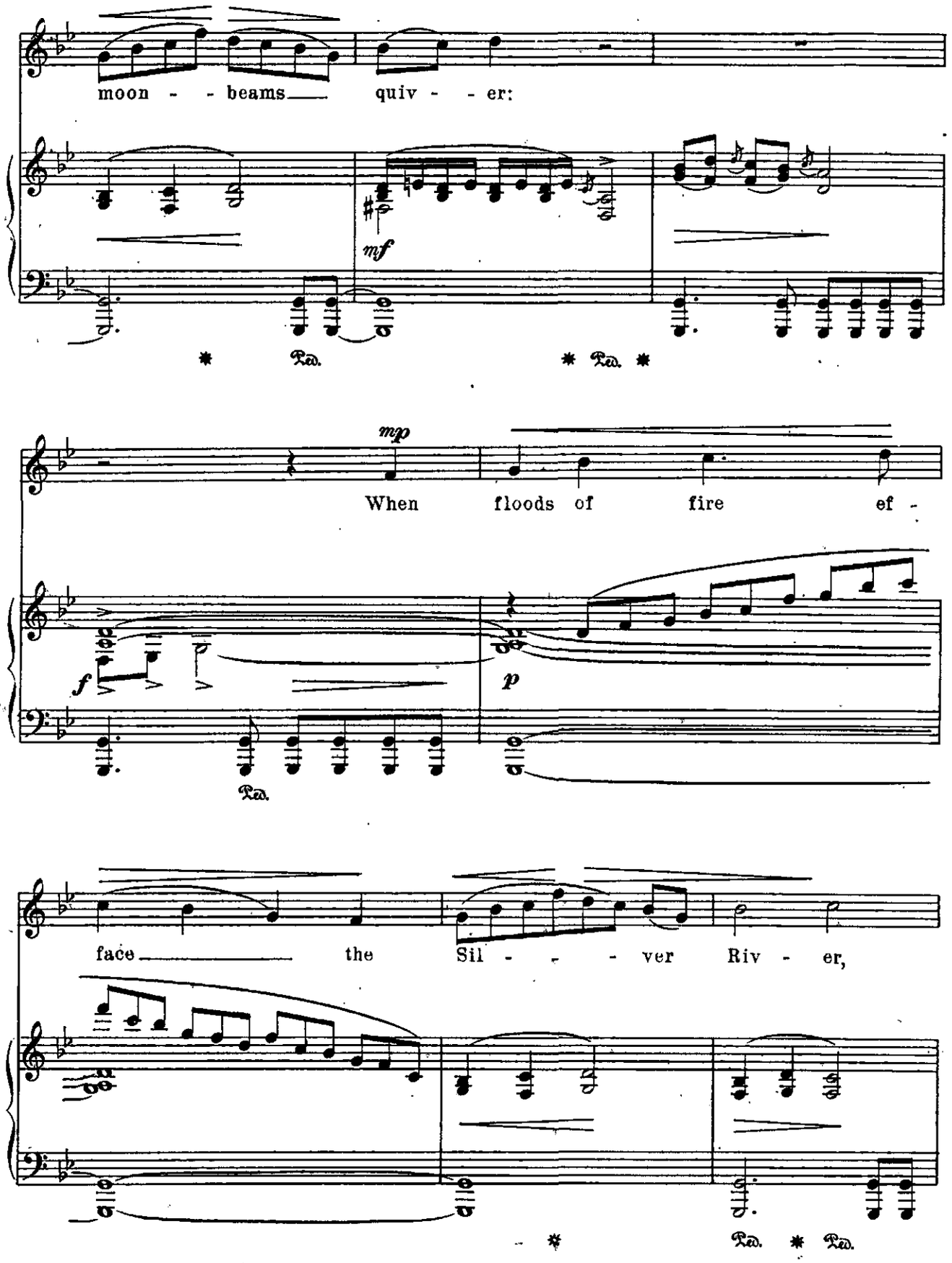

accel.
mp
part-ing ways
As
accel.
mf
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *
a tempo
accel.
long
as dawn de - lays.
a tempo
p subito
accel.
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *
Animato (Tempo I)
ffz
ffz
f
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

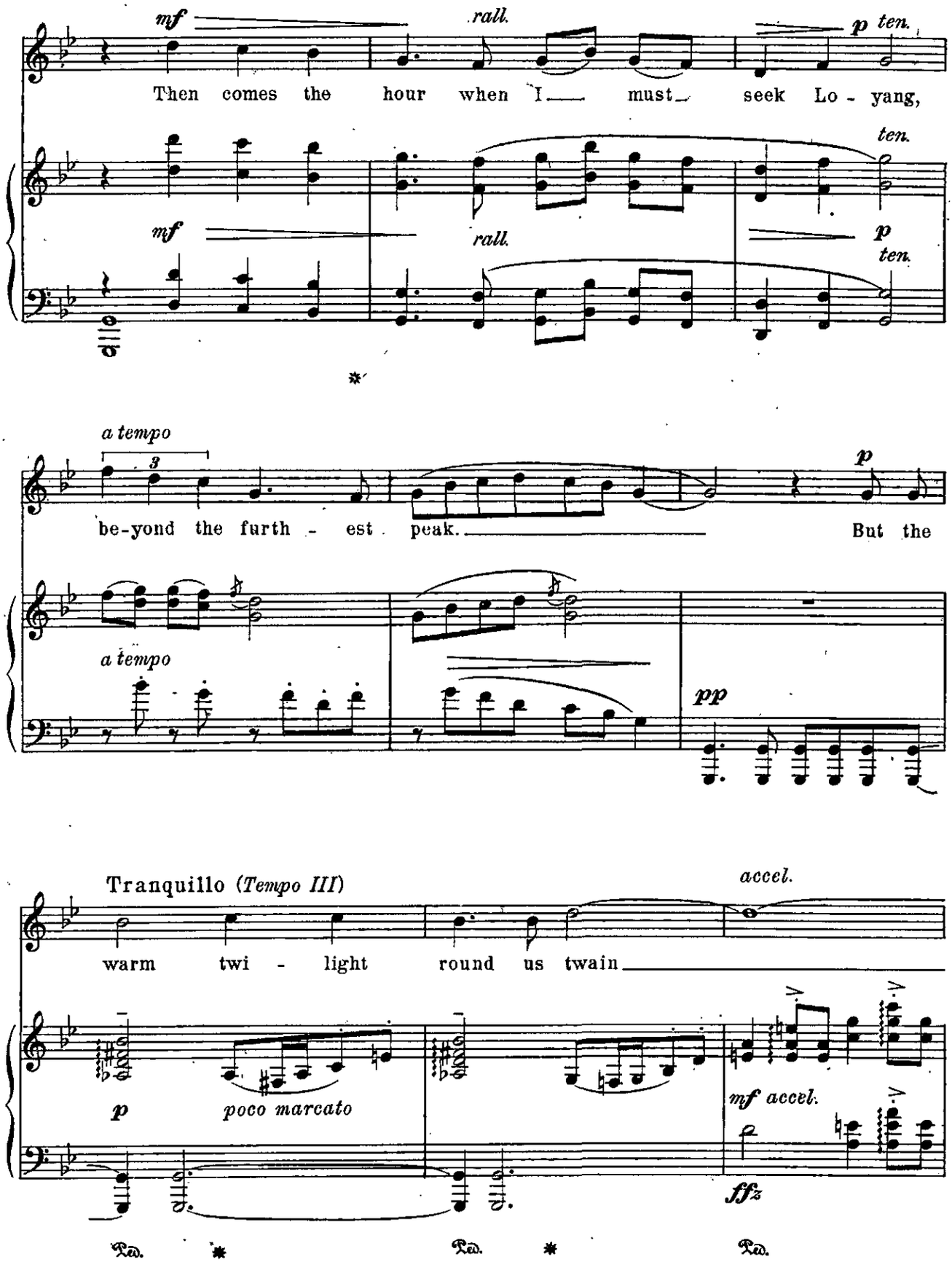


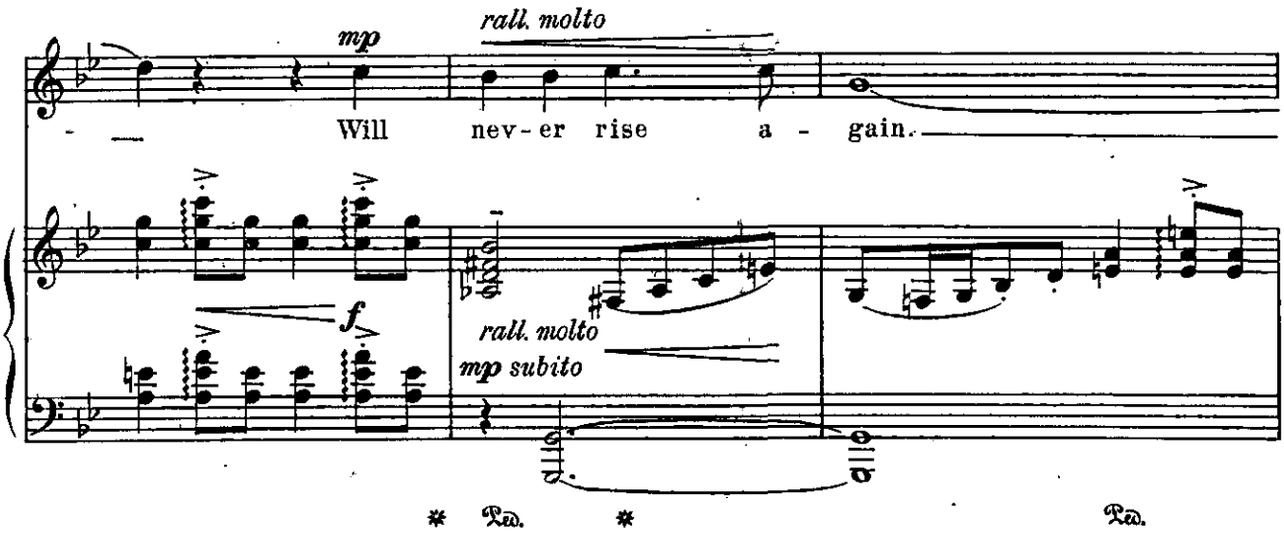


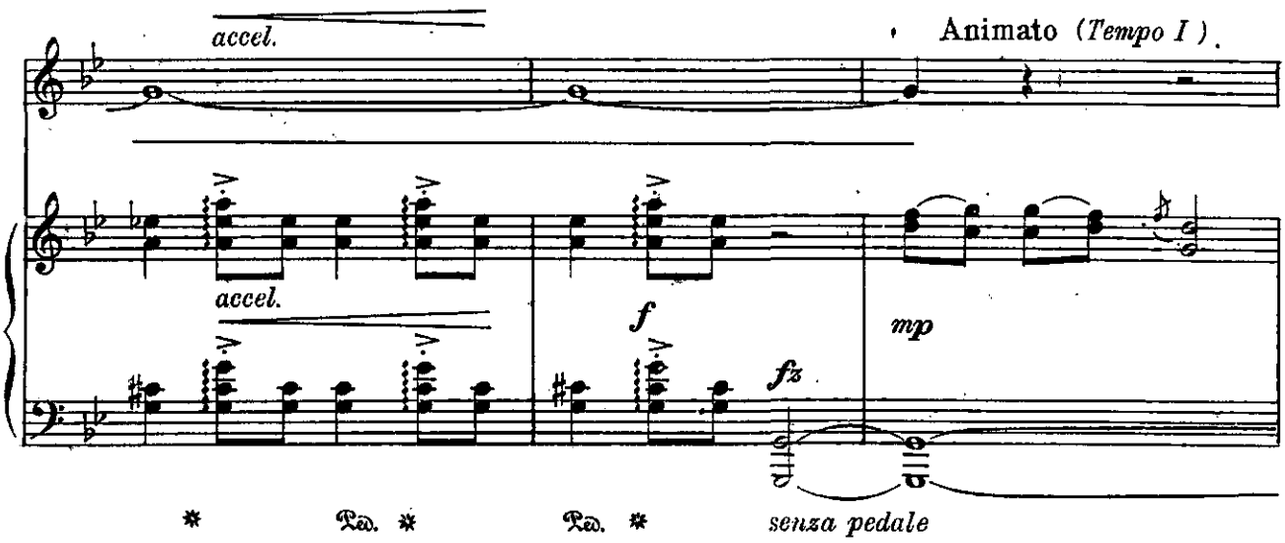
Meno mosso (*Tempo II*)

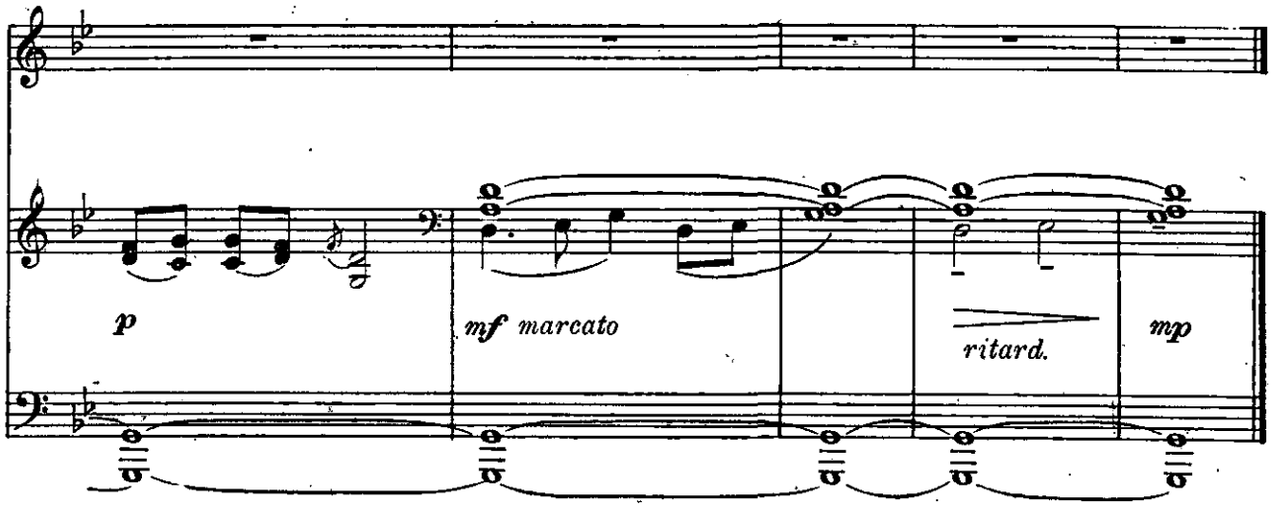



moon - - beams quiv - - er:
mf
Ped. * Ped. *
mp
When floods of fire ef -
f
p
Ped.
face the Sil - - - ver Riv - er,
Ped. * Ped.


mf
rall.
p ten.
Then comes the hour when I must seek Lo - yang,
ten.
mf
rall.
p
ten.
a tempo
3
p
be-yond the furth - est peak. But the
a tempo
pp
Tranquillo (Tempo III)
accel.
warm twi - light round us twain
p
poco marcato
mf accel.
ffz
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


mp
rall. molto
Will nev-er rise a - gain.
f
rall. molto
mp subito
Ped. * Ped.


accel.
Animato (Tempo I)
accel.
f
mp
fz
Ped. * Ped. * senza pedale


p
mf marcato
ritard.
mp